



# ***United States Southern Command***

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## **SOUTHCOM Receives Defense Award for War on Terrorism**

**MIAMI** – More than 1,500 military and civilian personnel assigned to Headquarters, United States Southern Command will take part in a celebration when the Command is awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (JMUA) Thursday at 8 a.m. at the Command Headquarters on the same day SOUTHCOM celebrates the U.S. Army's 228<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

The JMUA is a unit award that recognizes outstanding heroism or achievement performed during periods of war, international tension, national emergencies, or extraordinary situations that involve national interests. SOUTHCOM earned the award for the outstanding contributions of its Joint Task Forces 160 and 170 in Guantanamo, Cuba, for their outstanding support to the War on Terrorism during the period of 1 December 2001 to 31 December 2002.

All command personnel will be present as Army Gen. James T. Hill, SOUTHCOM Commander and Command Sergeant Major Michael Etheridge, affix an award streamer to the Command Colors.

SOUTHCOM's celebration of the Army's 228<sup>th</sup> Birthday will take place at 4 p.m. at the Firefighter's Memorial Building on 8200 N.W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street. The theme for this year's celebration is "The Army – At War and Transforming." The festivities for the Army Birthday will include a speech by Gen. Hill, military displays and video presentations of the 228<sup>th</sup> Army Birthday.

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**\* To cover the morning award ceremony at the Headquarters, media should arrive no later than 7:45 a.m. to gain access to the facilities.**

### **Web References:**

**United States Southern Command:** [www.southcom.mil](http://www.southcom.mil)

**Joint Meritorious Unit Award fact sheet:** [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awardsAsp/medal.asp?abbr=JMUA](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awardsAsp/medal.asp?abbr=JMUA)

**United States Army (228<sup>th</sup> Birthday information):** [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)